



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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October 29, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

VERDALE/SIMI AND GRAND PRIX FIRE STATUS REPORT AS OF 11:00 A.M.

The Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) remains activated and in close contact with affected cities, including Claremont, La Verne, Los Angeles, and Santa Clarita. Regular contact continues with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the American Red Cross.

The Presidential disaster declaration triggers the release of federal funds to assist in the recovery from these wildfires. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) holds daily conference calls with OES to discuss the various types of assistance that will be provided. I will advise your Board as soon as the state provides a definitive list of the State and Federal programs that will be made available.

STATUS OF THE FIRES

The information recorded below is based on the National Incident Reporting System dated October 29, 2003.

The Verdale fire has burned 8,650 acres and is one-hundred percent contained. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$2.4 million.

The Grand Prix fire has consumed over 68,000 acres and is thirty-five percent contained. There have been sixty-five homes destroyed in the Claremont area. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$11.5 million.

The Simi fire continues to burn east towards Santa Clarita, Valencia and Newhall. To date, the fire has consumed over 103,000 acres and approximately 37,000 of them are in Los Angeles County. The fire is twenty-five percent contained. There have been sixteen homes destroyed in Ventura County. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$27.5 million. All evacuations are voluntary at this time.

The shelters at Granada Hills High School, Kennedy High School and Hart High School were closed on October 28, 2003. The shelter at College of the Canyons, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road in Santa Clarita, remains open and will be staffed until further notice. There were no evacuees overnight. The City of Santa Clarita's emergency operations center remains on low level activation. Three school districts in the City of Santa Clarita (William S. Hart, Saugus, and Newhall) have been closed. The Sulphur Springs School District remains open.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Below are reports of activities of other County departments.

Sheriff

The Sheriff's Department continues to coordinate mutual aid response for law enforcement, conduct evacuations, and provide security in the evacuation areas. The Sheriff's department operations center (DOC) remains activated and continues to monitor the situation and deploy staff, as needed. They also continue to conduct arson patrols in the affected areas.

The Lost Hills and Santa Clarita Valley Station's have activated their station emergency operations centers. Sheriff Department personnel are staffing command posts in Santa Clarita and Moorpark. Sheriff Department Command Teams have been deployed in Santa Clarita on a 24-hour basis.

Probation

The Probation Department is on fire watch at their facilities located in Sylmar, Calabasas, Malibu, Saugus, Lake Hughes, San Dimas and La Verne.

Public Social Services (DPSS)

On Monday, October 27, 2003, DPSS activated the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) At-Risk Client emergency response plan. All at-risk (IHSS recipients identified as residing in the impacted fire areas) were contacted to ensure their pre-identified needs are being met and adequate social support systems are in place. To date, no problems have been reported.

Animal Care and Control

Animal Care and Control remains on stand-by to be deployed to the Calabasas area, if needed. Their emergency operations center in the Agoura Shelter remains on a low-level activation. The sheltering site at Pierce College is still operational. Currently there are 40 horses at the site. They are also providing assistance to residents for retrieval of pets.

Health Services

The Department of Health Services released an updated health advisory on October 28, 2003 to the Los Angeles County Office of Education for distribution to school districts (copy attached). The advisory stated that school officials should restrict student outdoor activity and that the Health Department recommends indoor recess in Los Angeles and surrounding counties.

RECOVERY PLANNING

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a toll-free telephone registration number, (800) 621-FEMA, for victims to apply for Federal Disaster Assistance. Info-Line has information about services available on the County Public Information Hotline at (800) 980-4990.

A County/State/Federal Local Assistance Center (One-Stop Center) will be set-up at the Hughes Community Center, 1700 Danbury Road in Claremont. OEM is working closely with the Fifth Supervisorial District, the City of Claremont, and OES to rapidly activate the center with an array of local, state, and federal services.

My staff and I will keep you informed with daily reports for the near future.

DEJ:CP
JH:cm

Attachment

c: Emergency Management Council
 EMC Steering Committee
 EMC Subcommittee



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Office of Communications**



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**Immediate Release:
October 28, 2003**

**For more information contact:
Maria Iacobo at (213) 240-8144**

Updated Health Advisory:

School officials should restrict student outdoor activity. Health department recommends indoor recess.

LOS ANGELES -- The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is issuing an updated health advisory for schools due to the continued and smoke and resultant poor air quality from the fires raging in Los Angeles and surrounding counties. Smoke from a wildfire is made up of small particles, gases and water vapor that can cause health problems.

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County Health Officer, said, "Some of the smoke contents can have adverse health effects. In the short run these effects can be a scratchy throat, headache, runny nose and stinging eyes. School should limit student time outside, holding recess breaks inside if possible. In addition it's a good idea for anyone in smoke impacted areas to limit strenuous outdoor activities.

Among children and adults, those at greatest risk from smoke exposure are those with heart disease or lung diseases, including emphysema, asthma and chronic lung problems. These individuals should monitor their condition and be vigilant about taking their medicines as prescribed by their doctor. If their symptoms worsen, they should contact their doctor. Individuals with asthma should keep their "as needed" inhalers with them at all times. In addition the elderly are more susceptible to the effects of smoke and should be contacted to be sure they are not feeling any ill effects and understand how to limit their exposure. It is recommended that everyone in Los Angeles County avoid prolonged exercise, especially outdoors, until the air quality improves."

Staying indoors can somewhat reduce exposure to smoke, and keeping doors and windows closed is a good idea. Indoor air filtration devices with HEPA filters can reduce the level of particles that circulate indoors.

For more detailed information about air quality related to the wildfire, visit the South Coast Air Quality Management District's website at www.aqmd.gov

Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control and community and family health. Public Health comprises more than 3,800 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$600 million.

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